

Decision Package: 921

Support of agricultural programs in Extension

1. Fund Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory – MSU in Bozeman \$400K (OTO)

- MSU Extension's Schutter Diagnostic Lab carried out 4,115 diagnoses or identifications on 3,373 samples in the past two years.
- Detecting new and invasive pests that pose a risk to Montana and to the U.S. so they do not become significant limitations to agricultural production and international trade.
- Safeguarding Montana from plant pests by providing identification services, management advice, and education.

The direct economic impact of recommendations from the Schutter Diagnostic Lab in 2011 was \$100 million. Wheat growers saved the majority through diagnosis and outreach based on stripe rust samples submitted. In 2012, education of one field agronomist about stripe rust is estimated to have impacted 48,000 acres with an economic benefit to growers of \$4 million.

Wheat streak mosaic virus samples and recommendations during a field visit saved growers in Pondera County \$540,000 in crop replacement costs and realized yields.

2. Restore two Extension Specialist Positions:  
(includes salary and benefits)

Extension Farm Management Specialist – MSU Bozeman \$200K

Beef Management Specialist – Miles City \$200K

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Total Biennial increase in Extension: \$800,000.

1941

1942

1943

